

to the American working poor, lower-middle-class and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out of this essential education for their children.

We cannot afford to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass unenriched. My bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as to today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions throughout the nation increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy and crime.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia. The arts are very important to the Eighth District of Virginia, and play a crucial role in our economic growth, community development, and educational opportunities.

The U.S. Naval Torpedo Station in Alexandria opened a century ago and has served many unique roles in its lifetime. During World War II it was used as a munitions plant before being turned into a storage facility. In 1969, the City of Alexandria bought the building for use by its residents.

The President of The Art League of Alexandria, Marian Van Landingham, proposed converting the space into art studios in 1974. Today, 45 years later, the Torpedo Factory Art Center continues to be a thriving creative community in the City of Alexandria. The center hosts over 500,000 visitors every year and is the nation's largest collection of working-artists' open studios under one roof. It is a significant part of the City of Alexandria's history and, I hope, its future.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Torpedo Factory Art Center on reaching this milestone anniversary, and in thanking all those who have contributed their time and talent to the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY LEE OF LOS ANGELES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Beverly Lee in 40 years of service to the Los Angeles Communications Center, or LACC.

A Public Safety Operator at LACC is responsible for answering any and all 911, public information, and allied agency calls in the 88 cities within Los Angeles County. LACC is the largest dispatch center in the state and Los Angeles County and answers an average of 7,000 calls a day, and over 10,000 calls a day during holidays, special events, or catastrophes.

Beverly Lee's journey at LACC began on July 23, 1979. Her younger brother was a dispatcher at LACC, and he encouraged Beverly to apply and test for a position. Beverly worked hard during her training and passed probation; the rest is history.

Beverly's career is historic in many ways. She was part of the last training class to document critical information on cards and the first to learn the computer-aided dispatch system. Throughout her 40-year career, she has handled innumerable high-priority emergency calls proficiently and calmly, being the voice of help in many hopeless moments. She was an integral part of rendering safety, service, and security to the public during the 1984 Olympics, 1991 LA Riots, 1994 Northridge Earthquake, 2000 Democratic National Convention, Y2K computer changeover, numerous LA Lakers Championships, the LA Kings 1st Championship, and many other notable emergencies. She has spent an untold number of holidays away from family and friends to assist others that need her help.

Beverly has an excellent work ethic and displays it daily. She physically, mentally, and emotionally exceeds her job expectations and does it with a smile. She is a strong and dedicated supporter of LACC's training program, and her guidance has led to many supervisorial and managerial promotions. She has donated food, clothing, and monetary gifts to the homeless and to Hurricane Katrina Victims, and is an active member of "Team CHP", supporting the Revlon Breast Cancer Walks and CHIPS for Kids. Her infectious laugh contributes to the morale of LACC, and her willingness to go above and beyond is truly an inspiration.

Beverly never imagined having a 40-year career at LACC, but has maintained her goal of having an excellent work ethic and a grateful attitude. She says the most rewarding gift of working at LACC has been the friendship, loyalty and support she has experienced here. Beverly's health and attitude are an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO AGUSTIN SILVAS "GUS" CHAVEZ

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Agustin Silvas "Gus"

Chavez, who passed away surrounded by friends and family on August 18th. He was 76 years old.

Agustin, affectionately known as Gus, was an exemplary community leader and activist who worked tirelessly for the Latino community in San Diego, California. He advocated for the importance of education as the most effective way to achieve economic success and self-sustainability.

Born in Texas, Gus arrived in San Diego in 1963 after joining the United States Navy, where he served as a Hospital Corpsman at Balboa Naval Hospital. It was during Gus's time in the Navy that he first began to work within the San Diego community and found his passion for activism through education and social justice work.

After he was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1966, Gus earned his Associate of Arts degree from San Diego City College and later his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from San Diego State University. Throughout his education, Gus worked with several student associations to fight for equal access to education. His work led to the founding charter of the Latino student group Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), as well as the Brown Berets and MAPA.

In 1969, Gus co-founded the Chicano Federation of San Diego, a group dedicated to improving the lives of people in the Mexican American community in San Diego. The Chicano Federation started as a way to provide valuable resources and services to the Latino community. Today the organization offers child care programs, nutrition assistance programs, and affordable housing for families and seniors across all underserved communities in San Diego.

Gus served as the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program at San Diego State University for 30 years. Throughout his tenure, Gus took personal interest in students. He constantly motivated them to reach new heights and celebrated their accomplishments. I loved his sense of passion and excitement at the success of his students. I always felt a kindred spirit with Gus and his enthusiasm for lifting every student he worked with to their full potential.

Gus never stopped advocating for educational equity and educational access for all, particularly on behalf of first-generation students from marginalized communities. He firmly believed in the value of service and mentorship, and instilled that same sense of purpose into countless students.

I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends. I take comfort in knowing that Gus leaves behind a legacy of service and empowerment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NANCY PARKER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Nancy Parker, an author, breast cancer advocate, dedicated community leader, and award-winning journalist at WVUE FOX 8 News. After bringing the news to South Louisiana for nearly 25 years, Mrs. Parker passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019 at the age of 53.